

WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COMMITTEE: PUBLIC SAFETY (INCLUDING FIRE PREVENTION & BUILDING CODES, OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND SHERIFF & COMMUNICATIONS)

DATE: **APRIL 23, 2009**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: OTHERS PRESENT:

SUPERVISORS VANNESS
 BENTLEY
 O'CONNOR
 BELDEN
 SOKOL
 THOMAS

BUD YORK, SHERIFF
SHANE ROSS, CHIEF DEPUTY
LARRY JEFFORDS, COMMUNICATIONS SUPERVISOR
PAUL DUSEK, COUNTY ATTORNEY
JOAN SADY, CLERK OF THE BOARD
KEVIN GERAGHTY, BUDGET OFFICER

COMMITTEE MEMBER ABSENT:
SUPERVISOR GIRARD

SUPERVISORS: PITKIN
 STEC
 TAYLOR
 STRAINER
FRANCIS O'KEEFE, COUNTY TREASURER
ROBERT V. LYNCH II, DEPUTY TREASURER
RICK MURPHY, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF FISCAL SERVICES
TOM RANDALL, *THE ADIRONDACK JOURNAL*
SARAH MCLENITHAN, LEGISLATIVE OFFICE SPECIALIST

Mr. VanNess called the meeting of the Public Safety Committee to order at 9:45 a.m.

Motion was made by Mr. Bentley, seconded by Mr. Belden and carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 26, 2009 meeting of the Public Safety Committee, subject to correction by the Clerk of the Board.

Prior to commencing the Agenda review, Paul Dusek, County Attorney, apprised the Committee of an issue with Resolution No. 247 of 2009, Authorizing the County Treasurer to Pay Finder of Lost Property, Making Claim Pursuant to Personal Property Law Article 7-B. He explained that the original Resolution included a clause stating "Whereas the Sheriff's Office retained the funds and it is believed that an Officer of said Office turned the same over to the Treasurer's Office for safe keeping", and the Treasurer's Office had requested that the resolution be amended to read "Whereas the Sheriff's Office obtained the funds and Officer of the Department has advised that he believed the same were turned over to the Treasurer's Office; however, the Treasurer's Office had advised that a search of their records found no funds were turned over to them and both parties acknowledge that there is no receipt from the Treasurer's Office for the funds." Mr. Dusek advised that these changes would ensure both Departments were represented appropriately in the resolution.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to amend Resolution No. 247 of 2009 as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 15, 2009 Board meeting.

Francis O'Keefe, County Treasurer, interjected that the Treasurer's Office had not made the payment

and Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, advised that the funds were transferred to the Sheriff's Budget to make the necessary payment.

Privilege of the floor was extended to Bud York, Sheriff, who distributed copies of the Sheriff & Communications Agenda to the Committee members. *A copy of the Agenda is on file with the minutes.*

Agenda Item 1, Sheriff York apprised, was a request for Lieutenant Shawn Lamouree to attend the New York Tactical Expo and Conference from April 28 through April 30, 2009.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Thomas and carried unanimously to approve the request to attend the conference as outlined above. *A copy of the Request for Authorization to Attend Meeting or Convention is on file with the minutes.*

Sheriff York advised that Agenda Item 2 pertained to a request for Sergeant Steven Stockdale and Patrol Officer Anthony Bruno to attend the Cannabis Indoor Grown Investigator Training in Annville, Pennsylvania from June 14 through June 16, 2009.

Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Sokol and carried unanimously to approve the request for Out-of State travel as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 15, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the request is on file with the minutes.*

Agenda Item 3, Sheriff York apprised, referred to a request for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Warren County Sheriff's Office and the Warren County Probation Department, as well as an Inter-Municipal agreement with the City of Glens Falls Police Department for a new contract with Watch Systems for Offender Watch software to track sex offenders. Mr. Belden questioned whether the funds were available in the budget and Sheriff York responded affirmatively. Mr. Belden queried whether there had been a decrease in funding and Sheriff York replied that no funds had been awarded during the prior year. Mr. VanNess advised that State funding was available for the program through the Probation Department.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor, seconded by Mr. Bentley and carried unanimously to approve the request for a Memorandum of Understanding between the Warren County Sheriff's Office and the Warren County Probation Department, as well as an Inter-Municipal agreement with the City of Glens Falls Police Department and to authorize a new contract with Watch Systems as outlined above and the necessary resolution was authorized for the May 15, 2009 Board meeting. *A copy of the resolution request form is on file with the minutes.*

Continuing with the Agenda review, Sheriff York apprised that he had been informed that the 911 Communications Center equipment that was leased through Verizon required updating. He advised that the previous administration had signed a five year lease with Verizon in 2004 for all of the components and software, as well as servicing the equipment in the 911 Communications Center, which had been paid with Capital Project funds. He stated that Verizon had informed him that unless

the equipment was updated prior to the lease expiration in September of 2009, they would no longer provide support for the equipment. He added that the update would cost over \$400,000.

Sheriff York said that he had researched whether another company could provide the necessary support for the equipment at a lesser cost and he had determined that they all required updates to the equipment after five years. He apprised that the updates were necessary to keep the 911 Communications Center running efficiently.

Sheriff York advised that he expected the Verizon sales representative to notify him later in the day whether Verizon would authorize a one- year extension on the maintenance contract for the existing equipment; however, he stated, the equipment would require updates in 2010. He said that if Verizon declined to extend the contract there would be an additional cost of \$5,000 per month to the Sheriff's Budget.

Mr. VanNess questioned whether the 911 Communications upgrade would qualify for Federal Stimulus grant funds and Shane Ross, Chief Deputy, replied in the negative. Chief Deputy Ross explained that due to the fact that Warren County's population exceeded 50,000, they were not eligible. However, he stated, he was researching whether funding could be obtained from another source.

Mr. Geraghty suggested that Sheriff York work in cooperation with other Counties with 911 Communication Centers to petition the State for additional 911 revenues. Mrs. Sady advised that the matter would be discussed at the Legislative and Rules Committee which was scheduled to follow the Public Safety Committee meeting.

Mr. Taylor questioned whether it was possible to do a voice over internet protocol with the 911 Communications Center and Larry Jeffords, Communications Supervisor, responded that the equipment was already in place.

Mr. Jeffords advised that the 911 Communications Coordinator Conference had concentrated on having more of the 911 surcharge funds allocated to the Counties. He explained that \$25 million of the 911 surcharge funds were allocated to the New York State Police; however, he stated that the State Police had not provided for Fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) dispatch. He commented that the funds had always been allocated to the New York State Police, rather than the Counties that handled the dispatch, and he did not see that changing in the near future. Sheriff York advised that New York State was funding the State Police through the 911 surcharge funds.

Mr. Pitkin questioned whether the 911 Communications Center was working well and Sheriff York responded in the affirmative. Mr. Pitkin suggested hiring an outside contractor to service the current equipment rather than allocating funds for an upgrade. Mr. Jeffords advised that it would be difficult to find someone to take on the responsibility of maintaining the 911 Communications equipment, as Verizon had difficulty recruiting technicians willing to take the training and assume the liability that came with maintaining the equipment.

Mr. VanNess queried whether the State Police had dispatchers and Sheriff York replied that he was unsure of other Counties, but locally, in Troop G there were a few located in division headquarters. Mr. VanNess questioned whether the majority of 911 dispatching was done at the County level and Sheriff York responded affirmatively. Mr. Jeffords interjected that none of the Fire and EMS dispatch was handled by the State Police.

Mr. Thomas questioned where the remainder of the 911 surcharge funds were and Sheriff York replied that the funds were distributed to the State's general fund. Mr. Belden queried what the total cost to update the system was and Sheriff York responded that it was estimated at \$359,000, without the back-up, for a five-year period.

Sheriff York requested direction from the Committee as to whether it was necessary for him to request authorization to fill the vacant mandated position of Corrections Officer, which had been approved prior to enacting the hiring freeze. Mrs. Sady explained that Resolution No. 799 of 2008 stated that requests to fill vacant positions required a 2/3 majority vote of the Supervisory Committee, the Personnel Committee and the Board of Supervisors, as well. Sheriff York countered that the positions were mandated by the State of New York and he questioned the need for such approval of necessary positions.

Mr. VanNess advised that the Rockefeller Drug Law changes were going to have a negative impact on the County by making it necessary to board inmates for up to two years rather than one year, which would cost the County more money and cause overcrowding in the jail.

Discussion ensued.

Pursuant to further discussion on the matter, Mr. Dusek advised that according to Resolution No. 799 of 2008, mandated positions did not require a 2/3 majority vote. Mr. VanNess advised Sheriff York to move ahead with filling the position.

Mr. Stec advised that he was concerned that there was no automatic mutual aid plan in place for response to Airport fire coverage. Mr. VanNess advised that he had spoken to the Chief of the South Queensbury Fire Department and he had indicated that the automatic mutual aid plan had been discontinued due to it being formulated incorrectly.

Mr. VanNess queried whether this would affect the 911 response time. Mr. Jeffords apprised that while attending the fall meeting of the Fire Advisory Board he had requested that all the Fire Departments in the County update their automatic mutual aid plan by December 15, 2008 or they would be removed. He advised that the Chief of the South Queensbury Fire Department had informed him that if South Queensbury was dispatched he would request aid if he deemed it necessary.

Mr. Stec apprised that his concern was that the Airport was a County asset and he was unsure of whether he was comfortable with no automatic mutual aid program being in place. Chief Deputy Ross advised that some direction was needed in order to develop a plan.

Mr. Belden advised that he would bring the matter up for discussion at the Public Works Committee meeting on April 28, 2009.

Mr. Thomas suggested that the issue of State prisoners being boarded in County jails with no reimbursement from the State while the State prisons were closing be referred to the Legislative and Rules Committee. Sheriff York advised that a letter had previously been drafted to the State Legislatures with regard to this matter.

It was the consensus of the Committee to refer the matter to the Legislative and Rules Committee for discussion.

As there was no further business to come before the Public Safety Committee, on motion made by Mr. Bentley and seconded by Mr. Belden, Mr. VanNess adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McLenithan
Legislative Office Specialist